

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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R 190458 Z JUN 73 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6881

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1422

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS BM

SUBJECT: GUB PUBLICIZES APRIL KIDNAPPING OF RUSSIANS

REF: A. RANGOON 1407 (NOTAL)

B. RANGOON 1413 (NOTAL)

C. RANGOON 1366 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS ON DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED REFS A AND B.

A. SURFACING BY GUB OF NEWS OF CAPTURE OF RUSSIANS (AN ILL-KEPT SECRET) WAS FORCED BY FOREIGN PUBLICITY. GUB HAD PROBABLY HOPED TO KEEP MATTER QUIET UNTIL RUSSIANS RELEASED, BUT LONG STRETCHOUT DEFEATED SUCH POLICY. SITUATION NOW APPEARS TO BE STALEMATED, WITH LITTLE EARLY PROSPECT FOR RUSSIANS' RELEASE OR RECAPTURE BY GUB FORCES. SOME GIVE IN GUB POSITION WAS INDICATED, HOWEVER, IN REPORT (WORKING PEOPLE' S DAILY, JUNE 15) THAT HKUN- HSA HAD WRITTEN (POSSIBLY UNDER DURESS) TO INSURGENTS ON MAY 22 THAT " HIS RELEASE WOULD BE DECIDED WHEN STATE POWER WAS RETURNED TO THE PEOPLE ON MARCH 2, 1974" AND THAT HE HAD ACCORDINGLY CALLED FOR RELEASE OF THE TWO RUSSIANS. GUB MAY HOPE THAT PUBLICITY WILL INCREASE PRESSURES FOR RELEASE OF HOSTAGES AND INTENSIFY POPULAR FEELINGS AGAINST ALL INSURGENCIES.

B. CAPTURE OF SOVIETS, SERIOUS AS IT IS, HAS BECOME ONLY A
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PART OF MUCH MORE SIGNIFICANT DRAMA WHICH NOW BEING PLAYED OUT WITH GUB (I) ENGAGED IN MAJOR TEST OF STRENGTH WITH KKY' S WHICH HAVE GONE UNDERGROUND (REF C) (II) REVIVING HISTORIC AND LONG FESTERING ISSUE OF KMT INVOLVEMENT IN BURMESE INSURGENCIES AND NOW POINTING FINGER PUBLICLY AT IBMND FOR FIRST TIME, (III) MAKING ALLEGATIONS IN VARIOUS DIRECTIONS, POSSIBLY DEFENSIVELY, AS BURMA ARMY IS BESET BY BCP/ WF, UNDERGROUND KKYS, TRADITIONAL INSURGENCIES AND NULF. ALL THESE, GUB POINTS OUT, ARE RECEIVING STRONG SUPPORT FROM FOREIGN BASED ELEMENTS, AND GUB CLEARLY IS DETERMINED TO LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED IN ITS EFFORTS TO BRING MATTER TO INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION.

2. NEGOTIATIONS WITH LOIMAW KKY FOR RELEASE OF RUSSIANS MAY GO ON FOR LONG TIME. SOME CONCERN IS BEING EXPRESSED IN FOREIGN CIRCLES IN RANGOON THAT RUSSIANS MAY ALREADY BE DEAD, AND THAT RECENT PUBLICITY WAS FOR PURPOSE OF STEELING FOREIGN COMMUNITY TO FACT. EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT THIS IS THE CASE SINCE DESPATCH OF SOVIETS BY INSURGENTS IS CARD THEY CAN PALY ONLY ONCE AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW IT WOULD ADVANCE THEIR CAUSE IN ANY WAY, EXCEPT TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR TOTAL RUTHLESSNESS AND UNCONCERN FOR FATE OF KHUN- HSA, WHOSE OWN DEATH KNELL WOULD THEREBY BE SOUNDED IF MIS MEANS WHAT IT SAYS.

3. BROADER SUBJECT OF VARIOUS FOREIGN- BASED INSURGENT ELEMENTS FISHING IN TROUBLED GUB INDIGENOUS WATERS HAS NOW BEEN GIVEN FULL SPOTLIGHT OF PUBLICITY. IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT DESPITE GUB' S TARRING US WITH INVOLVEMENT WITH KMT BRUSH IN THE PAST, TIN OO DID NOT POINT FINGER AT US IN ANY WAY. ON CONTRARY, HE ACCUSED MALCONTENTS OF SEEKING TO DISRUPT GUB- US RELATIONS.

4. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON SECURITY IMPLICATIONS FOR US PERSONNEL IN BURMA OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.
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